The Spark Gap

WITK

May 1988

Book XIII Volume V

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

President's Message

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

This month, I'd like to step up on my soapbox and talk about the FCC's recent disregard for their own rules that's happened recently. As you'll remember, UPS Inc., the folks that deliver many of your packages to you, have petitioned the FCC to accept their comments on the 220–222 MHz reallocation to the land mobile radio service from the hams. The problem here is that the comment period on this has been expired for 6 months. Remember a while back, when we were all asked to comment on this action, when many of us personally and we as a club commented against this reallocation? I understand that the FCC was flooded with comments, something like 20 inches deep of comments, mostly from hams, the people that had the most to loose.

Well, the FCC has accepted the comments of UPS, filed 6 months after the close of comments. While I know I'm an idealist, I thought this was a democracy. Our basic principles of government give 1 vote to each person. It seems to me that UPS's proposals are given special consideration over your's and mine. Look, if you filed comments 6 months late would they be accepted? I doubt it. Looks to me like money talks.

If you tried to vote in May of 1989 that you didn't like the president we all elect in November of 1988, would you expect your vote to be taken seriously?

Well, if you read into this that I'm upset about the whole thing, you're right on. And you should be too. Write your congressmen and Senators and tell them that you don't like the FCC's action in this matter. Then tell them that you'd like the FCC to rule that all of 220–225 MHz should be kept for amateur radio. Tell them that the FCC is out of order in accepting the late comments of UPS.

While the UPS proposal is in response to competition by Federal Express, and their fine communications system, there's no indication that a system like that used by Federal Express couldn't be used on existing land mobile frequencies.

Now I'll step down from the soapbox.

I hope we can get so see each of you at one of the upcoming public service events this spring and summer, and of course our 2 big events, the June VHF contest, and Field Day.

73 de Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

Elections

We've got to elect officers during the June 16th meeting. Please see the enclosed absentee ballot for the names of the nominees. At the April business meeting, all the present officers were nominated and seconded for another term. If you can't make the voting meeting, please return the absentee ballot to the club address so that it arrives before the meeting. If you can attend, please do.

GBARC Charles River Run

We need about 10 operators to help with the safety communications at the Charles River Run starting at the Nonantum Rd Ice Skating rink in Newton on May 15. Operators will need 2 meter walkies. If you can help, contact C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM at 332–6091.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

May 4, 1988 at 7:30 P.M.
May 19, 1988 at 7:30 P.M.
211 Washington St. Wellesley

Biathalon Into Summer

On June 5th, we will be supporting the Biathalon into summer sponsored by the Wellesley Raquet Club for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. We will provide safety communications for the 20 mile bike course through Wellesley, Newton, Needham and Dover. We need 10 operators with 2 meter walkie and/or mobile capability.

If you can help, contact Tom Kinahan, N1CPE at 877-3456.

New Novices !

The following are among the members of our novice class to pass exams : Dave Bush KA1RWK, Steve Meserve KA1RWL, Frank Caci, Sue Sample, Elaine Chase. Good going, folks, hope to see you on the air soon!!

Upgrades !

Congratulations to the following for upgrading their licenses : Bruno Bedetti, KA1DTP to Extra and Mike Karp, KA1LQK to Advanced. Great work!

Repeater

Our 147.63/03 repeater has had some recent adjustments done to the receiver section, please log any irregularitys noticed and bring them to a meeting, or mail to the club address.

We are looking to form a committee to examine the possibility of linking our 2 meter repeater to a 450 repeater that we've had coordinated for some time, but have had on the air only sporadically. If you would like to see this a reality, contact Tom Kinahan, N1CPE.

VHF Contest

Reserve the weekend of June 11 and 12 for the June VHF Contest. We'll be operating W1TKZ from Mt. Equinox in Vermont for this weekend and also will need operators for the Mt. Equinox Hill Climb that same weekend for safety communications for the racers that dare race for time up the nasty 5 mile mountain road.

Field Day

Keep the weekend of June 25 and 26th for Field Day. Based on discussions at meetings recently, it looks like we'll do something like a 7A or 8A operation this year, most likely from the Sprague School again. C'mon out, take the family, enjoy the festivities and bring your radios!!

W.A.R.S. in QST

Check out page 50 in the May QST for a sidebar on the Wellesley A.R.S. celebration of the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution from the U.S.S. Constitution!

May's Speaker

On May 14, Dick Gregario K1RAW will speak on the Ten-10 club at the Wellesley A.R.S. Meeting. On June 2nd Rick Booth KM1G, Managing editor of Offshore Magazine will talk on his Ham radio exploits on the U.S. Coast Guard Training ship Eagle.

Calendar ! ! !

- May 5 : W.A.R.S. Business Meeting ... 7:30 P.M. ... Wellesley Red Cross.
- May 14 : W.A.R.S. FCC Exam ...10am ... Wellesley Red Cross.
- May 19 : W.A.R.S. Meeting ... 7:30 P.M. ... Dick Gregario K1RAW on the Ten-10 Club ... Wellesley Red Cross.
- June 2 : W.A.R.S. Meeting ... 7:30 P.M. ... Rick Booth KM1G, Managing Editor of Offshore Magazine on his trip with the U.S. Coast Guard Training Ship Eagle. Plans for VHF Contest ... Wellesley Red Cross.
- June 5 : W.A.R.S. Trip to W1AW
- June 5 : Biathalon Into Summer, Wellesley.
- June 11+12 : June VHF Contest Mt. Equinox Vt. W1TKZ FN33.
- June 16 : W.A.R.S. Business Meeting ... 7:30 P.M. ... Discussion of Recent VHF contest, plans for Field Day. Elections for office.
- June 25+26 : Field Day ... Sprague School, Wellesley.
- June 30 : End of Al Graf Memorial 10 meter WAS contest.

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Editor :

Jon Freeman, KC1FD

47 East Meadow Road

Lowell, Ma. 01854

The Spark Gap is a monthly publication of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society, its sole purpose is to keep its members abreast of current happenings, FCC rule & regulation changes and to list equipment offered for sale or trade by members. Members are encouraged to contribute to the Spark Gap and may send their articles to the Editor's address or to the club address. Items printed in the Spark Gap may be reprinted by other Amateur Radio publications provided the author and the Spark Gap are given credit.

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society is dedicated to the promotion of Amateur Radio through instruction, fellowship, demonstration and participation. Annual membership in the society is $15 and the club year runs from September 1 through August 31. Amateur Novice through Advanced classes are conducted regularly at no cost. To enroll in a class or gain information about the Society in general, write :

The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

211 Washington Street

Wellesley, Ma. 02181

Al Graf Memorial WAS

Don't forget, all 10 meter contacts made after March 1 and before June 30 count in the Al Graf Memorial 10 M WAS contest. Just work as many states as possible in this time. An award will be given for the most states worked. Check March's Spark Gap for official rules, and April's for log sheets. Drop us a line or come to a meeting to get additional copies of the rules or log sheets.

Good Luck!

Your Newsletter

For 2 years, Jon Freeman has been your newsletter editor and done a great job, but at the conclusion of this year, he's decided to relinquish the keyboard, and let somebody else have a go at it. As a result, I'm still looking for somebody to take over Jon's duties as editor. If you have access to word processing facilities, or just like to type, please contact me and we'll talk about the newsletter.

Without some person to volunteer for the job, we're going to have to cut down on the number of issues and make them less frequent (we may need to do that even with an editor), or do away with it. It's up to you.

Contact Tom Kinahan, N1CPE at 877-3456 for details.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society : Bruno Bedetti KA1DTP, Steve Campisano, Barry Kasindorf WA1YDL, Tim Cadigan N1FME, Dave Bush KA1RWK, and Elaine Chase. Also welcome again to the following renewing members : Vern Robertson W1EGE, Vin Dwyer N1BCP, Dan Quintiliani KA1KLP, Larry Leblanc WA1MWF, Phil Warbasse KA1OJI, Bob Downer N1COY.

Looking Ahead...

In the looking ahead department, We've been asked to do communications for the Wellesley Veterans Parade again this year. Lift up the pages on your calendar and put a mark next to Sunday October 16, 1988 and reserve it for the Wellesley Veterans Parade. Two meter operators will be needed.

FCC EXAM SESSION

The Wellesley ARS will sponsor an FCC Exam session on Saturday May 14, 1988 at 10:30 AM at the Wellesley Red Cross Building. All classes of exams, from Novice to Extra, will be given.

DATE: May 14, 1988 (Saturday)
TIME: 1030 AM
PLACE: Wellesley Red Cross Bldg (211 Washington St)
TALK-IN: Wellesley Repeater (147.03/63 Repeater)

CALL: Vern Valero 617-533-6822 (Before 9 PM) by May 7
PREREGISTER? YES! Book Yourself A Spot ASAP.
WALK-INS? You must call ahead by May 7!

BRING: Completed FORM 610
Your Original FCC License
A Clean Copy Of Your FCC License
A Picture ID. (Such as Driver's License)
Check: $ 4.55 payable ARRL/VEC
Pencil, Pen, & Eraser

Family Visit To ARRL HQ

Wellesley ARS members and their families will be welcome guests at the ARRL headquarters on June 5. We will car-pool to Newington and look through the W1AW station and antenna farm. Bring a copy of your license

and you might get to operate W1AW!

We have received the approval of the ARRL to bring a videotape camera. A video production will be made of the W1AW control room and antenna complex. The tape is being made primarily for KA1IYR and WA1WNR, but it can also be reviewed by members unable to attend the trek.

Frank, NG1I promises something very special for the kids! A stop will be made at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, CT. Dinosaur footprints from the Triassic period (200 million years ago) are clearly visible in the park. Who knows? We may actually catch one!

If you would like to visit W1AW and the dinosaur park, leave Sunday June 5 free.

When to Listen for UO11

The following are times to listen for UO11's digitalker passing over the Boston area. The satellite transmits telemetry information using FSK and changes to voice to give the lattitude and longitude for the Skitrek team crossing the North Pole. All times are in Zulu. Midnight Zulu time is 8pm our time. Listen on the frequency of 145.825 FM. Listen starting at the listed times for about 20 minutes and you should hear the satellite. Happy listening!

May 5 - 0022z,0157z,0337z,1354z,1531z,1710z
May 6 - 0058,0235,1256,1431,1609
May 7 - 0001,0135,0313,1332,1509,1647
May 8 - 0037,0212,0335,1409,1546,1727,2341
May 9 - 0113,0250,1311,1446
May 10 - 0015,0150,0330,1347,1535,1703
May 11 - 0051,0228,0411,1250,1424,1602,2355
May 12 - 0128,0306,1325,1502,1640
May 13 - 0030,0206,0346,1402,1540,1720,2335
May 14 - 0106,0244,1304,1440,1618
May 15 - 0009,0143,0323,1340,1517,1656
May 16 - 0045,0221,0403,1244,1417,1555,2359
May 17 - 0121,0259,1319,1455,1633
May 18 - 0024,0159,0339,1356,1533,1712
May 19 - 0100,0237,1258,1436,1611
May 20 - 0003,0137,0316,1334,1510,1649
May 21 - 0038,0214,0256,1411,1548,2343
May 22 - 0115,0253,1312,1448,1627
May 23 - 0017,0152,0332,1349,1526,1705
May 24 - 0053,0230,1426,1604,2357
May 25 - 0130,0309,1327,1504,1642
May 26 - 0032,0208,0348,1404,1542

OFFICERS

President
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 898-2749
Vice President
Rita Baker, N1DDI, 481-0863
Recording Secretary
Roger Smith, W1EOA, 235-6239
Corresponding Secretary
Kathy Pate, KA1IYR, 785-1801
Treasurer
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
Fund Raising
David Kent, N2AWG, 875-2126
Operations Chairman
Vern Valero, ND1Z, 533-6822

Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

Absentee Ballot, 1988

President

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE _____ Other _____

Vice President

Rita Baker, N1DDI _____ Other _____

Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Pate, KA1IYR _____ Other _____

Recording Secretary

Roger Smith, W1EOA _____ Other _____

Treasurer

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM _____ Other _____

Fund Raising Chairman

Dave Kent, N2AWG _____ Other _____

Operations Chairman

Vern Valero, ND1Z _____ Other _____

If you are unable to attend the voting meeting, June 16, please send this completed ballot to the following address so that it arrives before June 16.

Wellesley Amateur Radio Society
Election Committee
211 Washington St.
Wellesley, Ma. 02181

The Spark Gap

WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

211 Washington Street

Wellesley, Ma. 02181

SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

FIRST CLASS MAIL

WILLIAM HANLON N1ADY
49 VINE STREET
WRENTHAM, MA 02093